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J. W. ALSPAUGH.

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Peace Convention in New York.

SPEECH OF FERNANDO WOOD.

FELLOW CITIZENS:

We have fallen upon evil times. We have lived too long, if we have outlived our country; for disguise it as we may, the American Union has been severed, and perhaps forever, and candor compels the admission that our once proud Republic has fallen from its exalted height. It is now prostrate, decried, insulted, and without a second rate position abroad; rent asunder by a fearful civil war at home; ruled by despotic power on principles of partisan hate; and upon theories of Government utterly antagonistic to those upon which our institutions were founded; we stand before the world an object of wonder, contempt and ridicule. These facts are not referred to in a spirit of reproach. I but anticipate the record of history, and shall leave to others to fix the responsibility. I reproach none. It is not difficult to charge error or wrong doing after the accomplishment of results. All of us can see causes for misfortune that have occurred better than we can provide a preventive. "It is human to err, it is divine to forgive;" and, while it is easy to commit error ourselves, it is difficult to overlook it in others. With these sentiments I am disposed to alleviate the national woes rather than indulge criticism upon the causes. I would do something to extricate the country from its terrible calamities. The effort, however feeble, is enabling. Even the attempt, if made in good faith is worthy the highest intellect and must elevate patriotism.

I regret that of the many of this character of which America has boasted, who have honored us in the several departments of human progress, none have arisen at this time for this blessed mission. Heretofore in every age, great national exigencies have produced the man for the occasion. As the Almighty "tempers the wind the shorn lamb," so has He heretofore, provided the instrument by which great national results have been accomplished for the advantage of humanity. As yet, He has not vouchsafed this favor to us. No man equal to this crisis has appeared—neither in the field or in the Cabinet, nor in the many elevated spheres of private life has the man presented himself with the brain, the heart and the courage to seize and work out the great problem now to be solved in our case, and to utter efficiently the truths of reason with the force and power equal to the pending crisis. Those who have the intellectual ability have lacked the nerve, and those with the nerve have lacked the ability. But there is another wonder: That in this civilized population of over thirty millions—North and South—abounding with benevolence, purity, cultivation, and enlightened Christianity, none are found to raise the banner of peace. Among the thousands of lofty spires which rear their towering turrets to a benignant God, but one that I know of covers a pulpit devoted to the true principles of Christ, and proclaims "peace on earth." It is that of Mr. Pratt, a preacher of Staten Island. (Cheers for Pratt. A voice, Van Dyke of Brooklyn.) As if the most damnable crimes on record of history, ancient and modern, constitute religion, forgetting that war is the child of Satan, and that peace is of God, the emanation of the Divine Spirit.

That man who has the intellectual power and ability to stay this current has not had the nerve to make the effort, and when the man having the nerve has attempted, he has lacked the power and influence to accomplish it. In my person, without pretending to hold any power or influence, after studying and contemplating the theory of our Government, with a full appreciation of the issue, I, alone and single handed, will throw myself into the contest, let it be to my country or myself as it may be. Now, my friends, I am for peace as the only possible hope of the restoration of the American Union. (Cheers and applause.) I am for peace, because war has failed. (Cries—That's so. Cheers.) And it has been read in a let-

ter to night from a distinguished gentleman lately a candidate for Governor of Connecticut—(cheers)—"you cannot cement two antagonistic elements by blood. Therefore, I am against this war, in the first place, because, under the theory of our Government, there is no power to coerce delinquent States. By careful reading of the debates in Congress during the time of the formation of the Federal Government, and of the debates in the general State Conventions, I believe there is no man that dare contend that the most distant authorization of the military war power against the State can be found. On the contrary, when an effort was made to incorporate such a power, it was denied by Jefferson, Hamilton, Roger Sherman, and all the great minds, including John Adams of Massachusetts. They denied the power, and they finally declared to the world, on that occasion, if there was any coercive power at all in the Constitution it was legal and not military.

Therefore, my friends, if there be no military war power in the Constitution, it is necessarily an unconstitutional war, and all the instruments and results of the war. All these various attacks upon the rights of the people, upon the rights of the press, upon property, upon life, are all the necessary results of the first fatal mistake of the assault when there was no power in the Federal Government to perpetrate it. (Cheers) For I cannot for my life, understand how these members of the Democratic party consistently assail the acts of this Administration pretended to be necessary for the prosecution of the war. I cannot for my life understand how these men, who call themselves war Democrats, can consistently assail the Administration in carrying out what the Administration believes to be necessary for the war. The President of the United States is there under the Constitution—according to the provisions of the Constitution, we can not deny that. He is clothed with the executive powers controlling the military; and if, in his judgement, responsible to the people, it is necessary in the vigorous prosecution of the war, to commit these acts of which some men complain, I say that men who favor the war, who are in favor of its prosecution, that it is due to the administration that they, at least, shall not take exception to what the Administration deems to be necessary in its prosecution—(That's so.)

Now, gentlemen, I am opposed to the war because it never ought to have been commenced. An amicable adjustment could have been commenced. An amicable adjustment could have been made in the peace conference, which was voted down and rejected. I am prepared to say that until but recently I know the fact an amicable adjustment, securing the constitutional rights of the South was within the power of the Administration. Therefore, I am opposed to the war, not only because it never should have been commenced, but because it could have been amicably adjusted and determined. Again, I am opposed to this war because it has been diverted from its original purposes. Instead of a war for the Union it has become a war for the total sequestration and abolition of State sovereignty. It is for the abolition of slavery, and the abandonment of State and territorial power. (Cheers.) And when the American people committed themselves to it two years ago, when in a state of wild frenzied excitement, our men rushed into the war, they little thought they were to be made instruments of despotic power, that they were to become incorporated in a great army to be used for tyrannical and unconstitutional purposes, deprived of their rights as citizens, deprived of the comforts of home, deprived of the rights to exercise any political power; they little thought to become machines to be used by our tyrant masters at the capital. (Cheers.)

And, my friends, I am opposed to the war because it is rearing up in this country a new element in the government of the country. The military power has been introduced, and I have read history in vain if I do not know that in every country; and in every age, where the military power, arrogant, despotic and tyrannical, has been permitted to subjugate the civil power and over-ride the courts, at every time and in every age, that power has not only destroyed the principles of the people for a time, but it has become fixed, and afterwards it has been succeeded by the rule of inheriting monarchies. Here the military power is arrogant, proud and domineering. It commenced in Kentucky nearly a year ago by breaking up the Democratic Convention. It succeeded after that in intimidating and overriding every civil effort to express the feeling of indignation at their acts, and recently was overawed by the people at the ballot box in Indiana, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois; recently again we find it laying violent hands upon that noble tribune of the people, Mr. Vallandigham, of Ohio. (Cheers.) Following that base act,

which it virtually effected without even a decent recognition of the proclamation of martial law, it has within twenty four hours suppressed a noble Democratic paper, the Chicago Times, and throughout the West to day the people stand trembling upon the precipice, hesitating whether to rise *en masse* and expel these military satraps, or quietly submit to the grave of despotism which is being dug for them, and this night the city of Chicago may be in flames. There has been assembled there to-night one of the largest and most resolute gatherings of the people ever in Chicago, in front of the Times office, protesting against this military usurpation, against the rights of a free press. (Cheers.)

If I know the character of the men at Chicago, they possess the spirit of the men of New York (loud cheers), and I dare and defy the Administration to send to the city of New York their General Burnside, (hisses) and I here in the name of this assembly, thousands and tens of thousands, inside and outside, request the Administration to give General Burnside this district for his command. (Tremendous cheers, with groans and hisses for Burnside.) And if this conflict must come, if the revolution must commence, I want the powers that be to try their hands upon us. (Uprarious cheers.) Fellow-citizens I may have uttered the language of treason. (Laughter. "Go on" "No.") I certainly said more than the language uttered by our lamented and glorious friend, Vallandigham who was struck down for it. (Cheers for Vallandigham.) I may be the most glorious martyr upon the altar of my country. ("No.") I ask your attention and quiet for a moment till I relate you an anecdote of Gen. Washington. When a young man, he was, as we all know, a planter upon the Potomac river. He had a large and fine plantation, and had a neighbor who owned an adjoining plantation, with whom he had a dispute about the boundary line between the two. His neighbor was a tyrannical, despotic, resolute man. ("That's Abe.") He probably conceived that he was the owner of the disputed boundary, but Washington, honest, resolute, not desirous of infringing on the rights of others, finally believed that the title to the disputed line was in himself.

One day he was walking with his faithful servant by his side, and in those times, my friends, it was the practice to go over these large areas, comprising thousands of acres, with an armed servant. Suddenly he found himself right on the disputed boundary, and before him his enemy, the claimant. The claimant stood before him, holding a rifle in his hand, and he says to Washington, "Sir, go back; don't you cross that line." Says Washington, calmly, "I will cross it." The enemy took his rifle and cocked it. Says he, "Sir, if you cross that line I will kill you." Washington coolly turned to his servant and said, "John, do you hear what that man says? John, I intend to cross that line. When he takes aim you take aim, and John, when he shoots me do you shoot him." [Laughter.] Now, my friends, the application that I make is this: when one of your own fellow-citizens, be it the humble individual before you, or any other one, shall be taken in the discharge of his rights and in the maintenance of his own, do you strike down the tyrant. [Loud applause and cheers.] My friends, I am opposed to this war because it is a failure. ("That's so.") Even admitting its legality and constitutionality, admitting that it is really prosecuted for the purpose of Union, admitting that there has been none of these encroachments upon our rights, admitting that the Administration had done nothing but what they were empowered to do, and what it was best for them to do—I say it is a failure, that we have undertaken what we cannot perform. No revolted people that have kept an independent Government for a twelvemonth have ever yet been subjugated, and no purely agricultural people in the protection of their domestic rights have ever yet been subjugated since the world was founded.

Even laying history aside, the history of this two years' war shows that whilst we are brave and determined, whilst we have thrown our best spirit and energies, and an unlimited amount of treasure into this contest; whilst our men have fought as men never fought before, yet we have only gained defeat; humiliating to our sectional pride, destructive to all our material interests, and annihilating to every spirit of liberty. Candor should compel us to admit before the civilized world that we have been beaten and cannot succeed in what we have undertaken, and appealing to the same common sense principle that you and I would appeal to in every affair of life when we see we cannot succeed, it is prudent and wise, honest and ennobling to admit our failure, and that we must back down from our position. Now, my friends, I could go on ["Go on."]

[Somebody in the audience became objectionable, and there were cries to "put him out."] I could detain you here for another twelve months had I the physical and intellectual power to do it, to give you reasons why we should declare for peace, and therefore let us all unite in this glorious enterprise, let us save our country, even what is left of it, before it is totally destroyed and lost forever. [Cheers.] Let us declare for peace, and let us declare that the party or the man who advocates the prosecution of this war is false to the Democratic creed, and should be cast out from among us as Democrats. [Slight cheering.]

A New Method of Divorce.

In Berlin they have a novel method of dealing with matrimonial disputants. Divorces are freely granted, but first the applicants must go through the following test:

A small room was prepared in which husband and wife were put, the door being then closed, to remain so for six weeks, except it should be set in motion at the request of the wedded pair. There was in the room one stool, one plate, a unity of all the requisites, and a solitary bed was of such dimensions that if they choose to use it together they must needs lie very close. Of one thing, there was a duplicate; and that a little treatise on the duties of husbands and wives towards each other. No visitor was permitted to go near them, and they had only a glimpse at intervals of the grim face of the jailor, as he pushed their food through a hole in the door. It is stated that the test was attended with the most wholesome results. In most cases the parties were excellent friends in a few days, and very few could stand out for more than a fortnight. Another very gratifying circumstance was that they had scarcely on record a case in which a second application was made by persons who had already gone through the ordeal.—*Bishop Barnett.*

Mischief from Sorghum.

The refuse of Chinese sugar cane or sorghum is said to be very destructive to cattle, when given to them for food. The outer coating of the cane is very hard, and contains silicic acid or flint; and when this is broken up by grinding in the mill, and afterwards taken into the animal's stomach, it operates like broken glass, producing violent inflammation. The Independence Guardian, of Iowa, gives an account of seven head of cattle, that were destroyed by eating this refuse sugar cane, after the juice was extracted. A post mortem examination of the stomach revealed this as the cause of their death. It is highly important that the farmers who raise sorghum for making sugar, as well as those who grow it merely for fodder, should give attention to this subject, and see whether any facts within their own experience warrant the assertion that the Chinese cane is thus deleterious to live stock. If it be so the information should be circulated as widely as possible in order to prevent a serious destruction of property.

Defence of the Mountain Country.—In reply to representations made to him of the great danger to the property and peace of Western North Carolina arising from the disaffection on the border of Tennessee from deserters resorting thither, Gov. Vance has proposed to the people West of the Ridge to arm them for their own defence. Companies are to be formed of non-scripts, furnished with arms and ammunition by the State, and sworn into the service of the State, but to serve without pay, not to be removed from their own counties without their own consent, and to remain at home except when actually called out for temporary service, to repel invasion, break up and arrest gangs of deserters, preserve order and enforce the laws. In all other respects they will be State troops and subject to the articles of war.

"The Magnolia."

"The Magnolia Weekly" comes to us this week with, if possible, more than ordinary attractions. The reading consists of choice gems from the hands of some of our best Southern writers. The brilliant pen of Margaret Stilling is never at rest, while the prolific genius of W. Gilmore Simms enlivens the page with dramatic beauties.

The selections and general making up of The Magnolia are most excellent, and the modesty of its claim, together with the highly literary and varied taste of its editors, cause it to be eagerly sought for, and entitle it to the reputation of being one of the best journals of the Confederacy.—*Rich. Enquirer.*

There is a stocking factory in Columbia, S. C., which has five machines running day and night and which turns out from twelve to fifteen hundred pairs of socks a day for soldiers.